



**2020/2149(DEC)**

14.12.2020

# **AMENDMENTS**

## **1 - 21**

**Draft opinion**

**Nikos Androulakis**

(PE660.190v01-00)

on discharge in respect of the implementation of the general budget of the European Union for the financial year 2019, Section X – European External Action Service  
(2020/2149(DEC))

AM\_Com\_NonLegOpinion

**Amendment 1**  
**Peter van Dalen**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 1**

*Draft opinion*

1. Notes growing instability and the rise of unprecedented challenges in the international environment, which increased demands on the Union to act as a global player; highlights the European External Action Service's (EEAS) central role in conducting the external policy of the Union; notes that the EEAS's enhanced role has not been underpinned by a corresponding staff increase; calls for sufficient human resources to be made available in order not to put at risk the Union's effectiveness on the international scene;

*Amendment*

1. Notes growing instability and the rise of unprecedented challenges in the international environment, which increased demands on the Union to act as a global player; highlights the European External Action Service's (EEAS) central role in conducting the external policy of the Union, ***together with the Special Envoy for the promotion of freedom of religion or belief, and in cooperation with the European Parliament's Intergroup on Freedom of Religion or Belief and Religious Tolerance***; notes that the EEAS's enhanced role has not been underpinned by a corresponding staff increase; calls for sufficient human resources to be made available, ***particularly through greater efficiency***, in order not to put at risk the Union's effectiveness on the international scene;

Or. nl

**Amendment 2**  
**Jérôme Rivière, Thierry Mariani, Jaak Madison, Lars Patrick Berg, Susanna Ceccardi**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 1**

*Draft opinion*

1. ***Notes growing instability and the rise of unprecedented challenges in the international environment, which increased demands on the Union to act as a global player; highlights the European External Action Service's (EEAS) central role in conducting the external policy of the Union; notes that the EEAS's enhanced role has not been underpinned by a corresponding staff increase; calls***

*Amendment*

1. ***States that national diplomatic services and embassies are the legitimate representatives of the Member States in connection with fair and balanced international relations; emphasises that it is not the job of the EEAS to take their place; calls therefore for a significant reduction in EEAS appropriations and staff; calls also for the EEAS to end its recruitment and calls on Member States***

*for sufficient human resources to be made available in order not to put at risk the Union's effectiveness on the international scene;*

*and their diplomatic services to react accordingly;*

Or. fr

### **Amendment 3**

**Ernest Urtasun**

on behalf of the Greens/EFA Group

### **Draft opinion**

#### **Paragraph 2**

#### *Draft opinion*

2. Notes the persisting gender and geographical imbalances within the EEAS staff, despite positive trends in recent years; reiterates the importance of ensuring a balanced distribution of staff in terms of gender and geographical origin within different categories and grades, particularly at middle and senior management levels; points also to persisting over-representation of some Member States' diplomats among the Heads of Delegation; calls for further efforts to address those imbalances;

#### *Amendment*

2. Notes the persisting gender and geographical imbalances within the EEAS staff, despite positive trends in recent years; reiterates the importance of ensuring a balanced distribution of staff in terms of gender and geographical origin within different categories and grades, particularly at middle and senior management levels; ***is appalled by the fact that women make up only 26% of the EEAS workforce in middle management and 31.3% in senior management, and that the last top appointments resulted in an all-male leadership of the EEAS; calls on the EEAS to swiftly work towards the objective of 50% of women in senior and middle management positions, as set out in the Gender Action Plan III, including through a clear timeline and measures that set out when and how to achieve this objective; calls on the HR/VP to implement his stated commitments to gender equality and women's representation in his own service;*** points also to persisting over-representation of some Member States' diplomats among the Heads of Delegation; calls for further efforts to address those imbalances;

Or. en

**Amendment 4**  
**Vangelis Meimarakis**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 2**

*Draft opinion*

2. Notes the persisting gender and geographical imbalances within the EEAS staff, despite positive trends in recent years; reiterates the importance of ensuring a balanced distribution of staff in terms of gender and geographical origin within different categories and grades, particularly at middle and senior management levels; points also to persisting over-representation of some Member States' diplomats among the Heads of Delegation; calls for further efforts to address those imbalances;

*Amendment*

2. Notes the persisting gender and geographical imbalances within the EEAS staff, despite positive trends in recent years; reiterates the importance of ensuring a balanced distribution of staff in terms of gender and geographical origin within different categories and grades, particularly at middle and senior management levels; points also to persisting over-representation of some Member States' diplomats among the Heads of Delegation; calls for further efforts to address those imbalances; ***highlights the fact that an improvement of the geographical and gender balance in the EEAS would contribute to improving the Union's coherence in external action initiatives;***

Or. en

**Amendment 5**  
**Nikos Androulakis**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 2**

*Draft opinion*

2. Notes the persisting gender and geographical imbalances within the EEAS staff, despite positive trends in recent years; reiterates the importance of ensuring a balanced distribution of staff in terms of gender and geographical origin within different categories and grades, particularly at middle and senior management levels; points also to persisting over-representation of some Member States' diplomats among the Heads of Delegation; calls for further efforts to address those

*Amendment*

2. Notes the persisting gender and geographical imbalances within the EEAS staff, despite positive trends in recent years; reiterates the importance of ensuring a balanced distribution of staff in terms of gender and geographical origin within different categories and grades, particularly at middle and senior management levels ***and calls for increased transparency in the decisions on the appointments of middle and senior management;*** points also to persisting over-representation of some Member States' diplomats among the

imbalances;

Heads of Delegation *and senior management levels*; calls for further efforts to address those imbalances;

Or. en

**Amendment 6**  
**Peter van Dalen**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 2**

*Draft opinion*

2. Notes the persisting gender and geographical imbalances within the EEAS staff, despite positive trends in recent years; reiterates the importance of ensuring a balanced distribution of staff in terms of gender and geographical origin within different categories and grades, particularly at middle and senior management levels; points also to persisting over-representation of some Member States' diplomats among the Heads of Delegation; calls for further efforts to address those imbalances;

*Amendment*

2. Notes the persisting gender and geographical imbalances within the EEAS staff, despite positive trends in recent years; reiterates the importance of ensuring a balanced distribution of staff in terms of gender, *religion* and geographical origin within different categories and grades, particularly at middle and senior management levels; points also to persisting over-representation of some Member States' diplomats among the Heads of Delegation; calls for further efforts to address those imbalances;

Or. nl

**Amendment 7**  
**Urmas Paet**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 2 a (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

**2a. *Emphasises the need to ensure the coherence of EU's foreign policy, there is also a need to provide necessary resources for a successful implementation of an efficient EU Security and Defence Policy;***

Or. en

**Amendment 8**  
**Ioan-Rareş Bogdan**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 3**

*Draft opinion*

3. Stresses the importance of continuing to improve the rationalisation and modernisation of the financial and administrative management; welcomes the ongoing discussions on the EEAS budget simplifications **and** calls on modernising and simplifying the EEAS administration, also through full implementation of the “Innovative 2019” project;

*Amendment*

3. Stresses the importance of continuing to improve the rationalisation and modernisation of the financial and administrative management; welcomes the ongoing discussions on the EEAS budget simplifications; ***points out in this regard the need for the EEAS to continue its efforts in order to achieve the simplification of the budgets lines***; calls on modernising and simplifying the EEAS administration, also through full implementation of the “Innovative 2019” project;

Or. en

**Amendment 9**

**Jérôme Rivière, Thierry Mariani, Jaak Madison, Lars Patrick Berg**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 3**

*Draft opinion*

3. Stresses the importance of continuing to improve the rationalisation and modernisation of the financial and administrative management; **welcomes** the ongoing discussions on the EEAS budget simplifications and calls on modernising and simplifying the EEAS administration, also through full implementation of the “Innovative 2019” project;

*Amendment*

3. Stresses the importance of continuing to improve the rationalisation and modernisation of the financial and administrative management; ***takes note of*** the ongoing discussions on the EEAS budget simplifications and calls on modernising and simplifying the EEAS administration, also through full implementation of the “Innovative 2019” project;

Or. fr

**Amendment 10**

**Nikos Androulakis**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 3 a (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

**3a.** *Stresses the significance of the culture of security and safety across all entities by ensuring that the EEAS has adequate personnel, procedures, infrastructure, tools (including IT) and budget to perform its critical and essential functions in the event of unexpected or crisis situations; calls on reducing the security risks, especially related to cybersecurity by increasing safety measures protecting the EEAS's digital infrastructure from external threats and attacks;*

Or. en

**Amendment 11**  
**Vladimír Bilčík**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 4**

*Draft opinion*

4. Stresses the need to fight foreign propaganda and to expose disinformation and malicious foreign influence; underlines the importance of the EEAS Strategic Communication Task Force and calls for the broadening of its mandate, including in relation to state sponsored disinformation originating in China, and providing it with further necessary financial and human resources;

*Amendment*

4. Stresses the need ***to communicate strategically***, to fight foreign propaganda and to expose disinformation and malicious foreign influence; underlines the importance of the EEAS Strategic Communication Task Force and calls for the broadening of its mandate, including in relation to state sponsored disinformation originating in China ***and in Russia***, and providing it with further necessary financial and human resources; ***stresses that strategic communication must include fighting disinformation about the COVID-19 pandemic***;

Or. en

**Amendment 12**  
**Jérôme Rivière, Thierry Mariani, Jaak Madison, Lars Patrick Berg**



**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 4**

*Draft opinion*

4. ***Stresses the need to fight foreign propaganda and to expose disinformation and malicious foreign influence; underlines the importance of the EEAS Strategic Communication Task Force and calls for the broadening of its mandate, including in relation to state sponsored disinformation originating in China, and providing it with further necessary financial and human resources;***

*Amendment*

4. ***Underlines the fact that the supposed fight against foreign disinformation is in fact simply further undermining the right to information; is concerned at EEAS initiatives in this area, which seek to restrict freedom of information, in particular in the digital field;***

Or. fr

**Amendment 13**  
**David Lega**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 4**

*Draft opinion*

4. Stresses the need to fight foreign propaganda and to expose disinformation and malicious foreign influence; underlines the importance of the EEAS Strategic Communication Task Force and calls for the broadening of its mandate, including in relation to state sponsored disinformation originating in China, and providing it with further necessary financial and human resources;

*Amendment*

4. Stresses the need to fight foreign propaganda and to expose disinformation and malicious foreign influence; underlines the importance of the EEAS Strategic Communication Task Force and calls for the broadening of its mandate, including in relation to state sponsored disinformation originating in China ***and the Middle East, particularly Iran***, and providing it with further necessary financial and human resources;

Or. en

**Amendment 14**  
**Ernest Urtasun**  
on behalf of the Greens/EFA Group

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 4**

*Draft opinion*

4. Stresses the need to fight ***foreign propaganda and to expose*** disinformation ***and malicious foreign influence***; underlines the importance of the EEAS Strategic Communication Task Force and calls for the ***broadening of its mandate, including in relation to state sponsored disinformation originating in China***, and providing it with further necessary financial and human resources;

*Amendment*

4. Stresses the need to fight ***malicious interference including*** disinformation; underlines the importance of the EEAS Strategic Communication Task Force and calls for the ***creation of a dedicated StratCom Task Force on interference emanating from China***, and providing it with further necessary financial and human resources;

Or. en

**Amendment 15**  
**Emmanuel Maurel**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 4**

*Draft opinion*

4. Stresses the need to fight foreign propaganda and to expose disinformation and malicious foreign influence; underlines the importance of the EEAS Strategic Communication Task Force and calls for the broadening of its mandate, including in relation to ***state sponsored*** disinformation ***originating in China***, and providing it with further necessary financial and human resources;

*Amendment*

4. Stresses the need to fight foreign propaganda and to expose disinformation and malicious foreign influence; underlines the importance of the EEAS Strategic Communication Task Force and calls for the broadening of its mandate, including in relation to ***China-sponsored*** disinformation, and providing it with further necessary financial and human resources;

Or. fr

**Amendment 16**  
**Petras Auštrevičius, Klemen Grošelj, Javier Nart, Ilhan Kyuchyuk**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 5 a (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

***5a. Notes the need to strengthen the EU Delegations in the Eastern Partnership and Western Balkan***

*countries and enable them to assist these countries in completing the reforms and to more effectively communicate how the EU is helping citizens there; stresses the necessity of developing more horizontal links and fostering cooperation among the EU Delegations in the Eastern Partnership and Western Balkans regions, particularly establishing regular exchanges of information and expertise and other successful working approaches, in order to provide a best possible assistance to the neighbouring countries engaged in pro-democratic and pro-European reforms;*

Or. en

**Amendment 17**  
**Emmanuel Maurel**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 5 a (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

**5a.** *Notes that a host of EEAS notices and documents are available in English only; notes also that working meetings are held without interpretation; calls for the EEAS to abide by the principles, rights and obligations enshrined in the Charter of Fundamental Rights; calls accordingly for the EEAS to provide the human resources needed to abide by multilingualism by increasing the number of translators and interpreters;*

Or. fr

**Amendment 18**  
**Nikos Androulakis**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 5 a (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

**5a.     *Regrets that only 1 recommendation out of 8 of the 2016 report of the European Court of Auditors on the European External Action Service's management of its buildings around the world has been fully implemented and 3 have been implemented in most respects; calls for the swift full implementation of all the remaining recommendations;***

Or. en

**Amendment 19  
Vangelis Meimarakis**

**Draft opinion  
Paragraph 5 a (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

**5a.     *Notes that the EEAS carries a vital role in ensuring the coherence of the Union's foreign policy; also highlights the need to provide the necessary resources for a successful implementation of an efficient EU Common Security and Defence Policy;***

Or. en

**Amendment 20  
Urmas Paet**

**Draft opinion  
Paragraph 5 a (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

**5a.     *Emphasises the growing need for a coherent updated EU-Arctic policy; notes that the new NDICI instrument opens up opportunities to finance the Arctic region;***

Or. en

**Amendment 21**  
**Vangelis Meimarakis**

**Draft opinion**  
**Paragraph 5 b (new)**

*Draft opinion*

*Amendment*

***5b. Calls on the EEAS to create posts for local agents responsible for reporting on legislative work in countries of strategic interest, particularly accession countries and those of the Eastern Partnership, in order to increase the Union's understanding of the neighbourhood and its approximation to the acquis; calls on the EEAS to take action to resolve the problems leading to the procurement errors identified and to prevent future infringements of the relevant rules;***

Or. en